

PM wishes Hindus a Happy Deepavali

PETALING JAYA: "The Deepavali celebration is a path to developing Malaysia that is Madani, respectful and racially harmonious, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the cultural diversity in the country must continue to be protected and be shielded from any efforts to weaken it.

"The unity government will ensure the socioeconomic development of every rakyat, more equal wealth distribution and assistance to the needy can be delivered accurately and efficiently.

"I will work to also make sure that the wellbeing and living standards of the people, especially the Hindu commu-

nity, are improved and protected," he said in a statement yesterday.

Anwar also quoted a line from the Tamil classical text, Thirukural, which he said reflects the Madani concept.

"Happiness that stems from ethics or good governance is a true blessing, and joy caused by an unethical attitude is suffering or does not bring sustainable happiness," he said, quoting the text.

"Happy Deepavali to all Malaysian Hindus," he added.

Deepavali, celebrated mainly by the Hindu community, is a festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

The celebration falls tomorrow.